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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)
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OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE: DRAFT STATEMENT OF
PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS AND GLOBAL PLAN OF
ACTION

E. International cooperation and coordination (paras. 143-157)

(Section IV (Global Plan of Action: Strategies for
Implementation), of the draft Habitat agenda)

Text submitted by Working Group II on the basis of
negotiations held on document A/CONF.165/PC.3/4

E. International cooperation and coordination

1. Introduction

143. The goals of ensuring adequate shelter for all and making human settlements and communities productive, healthy, safe and more equitable and sustainable contribute to achieving world peace, development, stability, and justice. International cooperation takes on added significance and importance in the light of recent trends in the globalization and the interdependence of the world economy. There is an urgent need to redefine and resuscitate the existing processes and structure of cooperation and to evolve new and innovative forms of cooperation with a view to enabling humankind to face the challenges posed by the development of rural and urban areas. Thus there is a need for the political will of all States and for specific action by the international community to establish and inspire new forms of cooperation, partnership, coordination and investment, including with the local private sector, in order to contribute effectively to the provision and improvement of shelter conditions in human settlements, especially in developing countries, taking into account the diversity of the needs of human settlements among countries.

144. The formulation and implementation of strategies for human settlements development are the responsibility of each country at the national and local levels, and should take into account the economic, social and environmental diversity of conditions in each country. The overall decline in official development assistance, however, is a serious cause of concern. This trend has also been accompanied by considerable increases in international flows of capital and by increasing private sector involvement in infrastructure and services development and management. This shift from aid to trade clearly points to the need for the participation of the private sector in the shaping of international cooperation. The international community, including multilateral financial institutions, has an important role to play in providing additional resources to reinforce national efforts to foster an enabling environment so as to achieve the objectives of adequate shelter for all and the sustainable development of human settlements.

144 bis. [International cooperation assumes added significance and importance in the wake of recent trends in the globalization of the world economy, on the one hand, and the continued deterioration of the plight of developing countries, on the other. The problems resulting from poverty, urbanization, lack of adequate shelter, including social housing, rapid population growth, rural-urban migration, economic stagnation and social instability are especially acute.]

145. Innovative approaches and frameworks for international cooperation in the development and management of human settlements must be sought and developed to include the active participation of all levels of Government, the private and cooperative sectors, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations in decision-making, policy formulation and resource allocation, implementation and evaluation. These approaches and frameworks should also include new and improved forms of cooperation and coordination between and among multilateral financial institutions, international organizations, and various organs and bodies of the United Nations system, including South-South, North-South and South-North exchanges of best practices, and the continuous

development of tools and instruments for policy, planning and management such as the application of shelter and urban indicators, human resources development and institutional capacity-building.

145 bis. These innovative approaches should also include new forms of cooperation and partnerships between multilateral and bilateral assistance agencies, on the one side, and civil society organizations and local authorities, on the other, based on the principles of "decentralized cooperation". This implies recognition of the capacity of local authorities to develop international relations and cooperation, within the existing legal frameworks of each country, and their right to devote their own resources for that purpose and to be associated in the process of defining international human settlements policies. Governments and bilateral and multilateral aid agencies should commit themselves to encouraging decentralized cooperation between local authorities and to the strengthening of networks of associations of local authorities.

145 ter. [In recent years disparities in economic growth, environmental degradation, and labour-market asymmetries have increased international migration, and have had a profound impact on the spatial distribution of city populations, resulting in imbalances of human resources between countries of origin and countries of destination.]

2. Enabling international context

146. The process of urbanization is linked to economic development, social development and environmental protection, which are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development. The provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development are increasingly influenced by the global economy. In this context, it is imperative to enable all countries, especially developing countries, to improve living and working conditions in human settlements. This calls for an enabling international environment and for integrated approaches at the national and international levels that take account of the efforts of countries to implement programmes of economic reform or economic transition. Furthermore, technological developments are leading to major changes in the structure of employment. [It should be recognized that in social and economic terms the housing sector is a productive sector and should be treated on an equal basis with other productive sectors. Achievement of the goal of sustainable human settlements development at the global level would depend on fair and durable solutions of, inter alia, the issues of finance, debt, trade and transfer of technology.]

147. The international community should support Governments in their efforts to cope with the impact of these changes on human settlements within a framework of enabling strategies. The international community should promote:

(a) The establishment of an open, equitable, co-operative, and mutually beneficial international economic environment;

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(b) The coordination of macroeconomic policies at all levels so as to achieve an international financial system that is conducive to stable and sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

(c) An international financial system that is more conducive to stable and sustainable human settlement development through, inter alia, a higher degree of stability in international financial markets, a reduction of the risk of financial crisis, and lower real interest rates;

(d) An environment in all countries [, including developing economies, economies in transition and developed economies,] that attracts foreign and domestic direct investment and encourages savings;

(e) Enterprise development, productive investment and expanded access to open and dynamic markets in the context of an open, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, predictable, transparent and multilateral rule-based international trading system [, and to technologies for all people, especially those living in poverty and the disadvantaged, as well as for the least developed countries];

(f) Capacity-building in developing countries in all regions, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, and in countries with economies in transition;

(g) The strengthening and improvement of technical and financial assistance to developing countries in all regions to promote sustainable development and to overcome the hindrances to their full and effective participation in the world economy.

148. With specific reference to sustainable human settlements development and the provision of shelter, the international community should:

(a) Ensure that the benefits of global economic growth improve people's quality of life in all nations, regardless of where people live;

(b) Mobilize national and international financial resources for shelter provision and sustainable human settlements development;

(c) Facilitate increased access by all levels of government and the private sector in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition to international financial resources so as to enable them to attract investment in shelter and infrastructure for sustainable human settlements development;

(d) In a manner consistent with national legislation, seek to increase the ability of local authorities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to link directly with global capital markets, in accordance with prudential safeguards in those markets, in order to finance their shelter and infrastructure programmes and to establish international and local mechanisms and instruments to facilitate risk sharing and credit enhancement for investing agencies - local, regional and national;

(e) Promote strategies to ensure substantial and well-directed public and private investments in shelter, infrastructure, health, education and other basic services, including through the provision of appropriate technical and financial assistance;

[(f) Encourage international cooperation in order to address the negative impact of international migration through technical assistance, management know-how and exchange of information as well as by ensuring equitable wages and working conditions for both migrant and native workers;]

[(g) Continue to provide support to refugees in order to meet their needs, and to assist in assuring them a just, durable solution in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and international law, noting that sustainable human settlements can only be established for them on their land of origin.]

3. Financial resources and economic instruments

149. The demand for shelter and infrastructural services in human settlements is continuously increasing. Communities and countries, especially developing countries, have difficulties in mobilizing adequate financial resources to meet the rapidly rising costs of shelter, services, and physical infrastructure. New and additional financial resources from various sources are necessary to achieve the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. The existing resources available to developing countries - public, private, multilateral, and bilateral - need to be enhanced through appropriate and flexible mechanisms and economic instruments to support sustainable human settlements development.

150. The implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly in developing countries of all regions, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries, will require the mobilization of additional financial resources at national and international levels and more effective development cooperation and assistance. This will require, inter alia:

(Note: It is intended that paragraph 150 should contain a series of specific subparagraphs. Consideration of them has not been completed, but it has been informally agreed that this could more effectively take place if these subparagraphs, and the alternative formulations that have been suggested for them, were organized under specific subject headings. These are: general, official financial resources, partnerships, improving the effectiveness of financial resources, private financial resources, existing economic instruments, innovative economic instruments, and special financing needs/issues. It is emphasized that it is not intended that these headings would appear in the final document. They would appear only to facilitate discussion. When that discussion has been concluded they would be removed. All of these subparagraphs of paragraph 150 are in brackets.)

[General]

[(a) Translating the commitments of Habitat II into financial implications for the provision of adequate shelter and human settlements development in developing countries in all regions, particularly those in Africa and the least developed countries;

[(b) Promoting assistance for shelter and human settlements activities;

[Official financial resources]

[(c) Raising the priority of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development among multilateral and bilateral donors and mobilizing their support for national, subregional and regional plans of action of developing countries, especially for interested beneficiary countries;

[(d) Striving to fulfil the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance and the 0.15 per cent target of gross national product for assistance to the least developed countries as soon as possible and to increase, where appropriate, the share of funding for sustainable human development programmes;

[(e) Achieving the agreed targets of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for overall official development assistance, and 0.15 per cent of gross national product for assistance to the least developed countries, as soon as possible, and not later than the year 2000, and increasing the share of funding for adequate shelter and human settlement development programmes, commensurate with the scope and scale of activities required to achieve the objectives and goals of the Habitat Agenda;

[(f) Striving to ensure that structural adjustment programmes respond to the needs of sustainable human settlements development;

[(g) Inviting the international financial institutions to examine innovative approaches to assisting low-income countries with a high proportion of multilateral debt, with a view to alleviating their debt burden;

[Partnerships]

[(h) Encouraging multilateral development institutions and donors to support nations in their effort to pursue enabling strategies through which national and local governments, communities and the private and cooperative sectors can form partnerships to participate in shelter and sustainable human settlements development activities;

[(i) Inviting multilateral and bilateral donors to support countries, particularly developing countries, in their efforts to pursue enabling strategies through which governments, local authorities, communities, and the private and cooperative sectors can form partnerships to participate in the provision of adequate shelter, including social housing and sustainable human settlements development activities;

[(j) Exploring ways and means to strengthen support and expand South-South cooperation based on the concept of triangular cooperation, partnership between developing and developed countries, and enhanced cooperation among developing countries;

[(k) Consolidating the solidarity of the international community and its organizations to provide adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development for people living under foreign occupation;

Improving the effectiveness of financial resources

[(l) Striving to enhance the effectiveness of existing official development assistance and other external financial flows through improving coordination between and among donors and the United Nations operational activities, and through better coherence between those flows and internal sustainable human settlements strategies;

[(m) Supporting programmes that increase the effectiveness and transparent utilization of public and private resources, that reduce wasteful and untargeted expenditure and that increase access to housing and services for people living in poverty;

[(n) Recognizing the negative effect of excessive military expenditures, trade in arms, especially of those arms which are particularly injurious or have indiscriminate effects, and excessive investment for arms production and acquisition;

[(o) Giving preference, wherever possible, to the utilization of competent national experts or, where necessary, of competent experts from within the subregion or region or from other developing countries in projects and programmes design, preparation and implementation and to the building of local expertise where it does not exist;

[(p) Maximizing the efficiency of projects and programmes by keeping overhead costs to a minimum;

[(q) Integrating practical measures for reducing disaster vulnerability in development programmes and projects, in particular in the construction of buildings and communication systems, financed by the international community, and ensuring that such measures become an integral part of feasibility studies and project identification;

Private financial resources

[(r) Developing economic policies to promote and mobilize domestic savings and attract external resources for productive investments, and seeking innovative sources of funding, both public and private, for adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements development programmes, while ensuring effective utilization of those resources;

[(s) Strengthening financial and technical assistance for community-based development and self-help programmes, and strengthening cooperation among

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Governments at all levels, community organizations, cooperatives, formal and informal banking institutions, private enterprises, and international institutions, with the aim of mobilizing local savings, promoting the creation of local financial networks, and increasing the availability of credit and market information to low-income individuals, women, and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups for shelter and human settlements development;

[(t) Facilitating access to global finances for those Governments and local authorities which are initiating or are involved in public-private partnership programmes;

[(u) Establishing and supporting linkages of informal credit mechanisms to the global pool of resources and increasing the access of the majority of the population to housing finance through participatory processes involving communities, non-governmental organizations, credit unions, global financial institutions, and other relevant actors;

Existing economic instruments

[(v) Attracting international flows of public finances for shelter provision and settlements development through appropriate economic instruments;

[(w) Considering means to facilitate foreign private sector investment in sustainable human settlements projects, particularly in the areas of infrastructure and transportation, for example by way of "build, operate, transfer" (BOT) schemes;

[(x) Assisting countries, particularly developing countries, in implementing effective and equitable pricing mechanisms for adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements, infrastructure and services in order to induce greater flows of private, domestic and global funds, while ensuring transparent and targeted subsidies for people living in poverty;

[(y) Examining appropriate debt-equity swapping measures in favour of shelter and infrastructure development in human settlements;

Innovative economic instruments

[(z) Developing innovative sources of funding, both public and private, for human settlements development and creating a supportive environment for the mobilization of resources by civil society, including beneficiary and individual voluntary contributions;

Special financing needs/issues

[(aa) Providing assistance for activities in the field of shelter and human settlement development in favour of people living in poverty, particularly women, and vulnerable groups, such as refugees, internally displaced persons, people with disabilities, street children, migrants and the homeless through specific targeted grants;

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[(bb) Promoting assistance for activities in the field of shelter and human settlement in favour of vulnerable groups, such as refugees and internally displaced persons, documented migrants, and the homeless through specific targeted grants and other assistance programmes;

[(cc) Recognizing the need for shelter and human settlements development in order to address the special conditions of some countries experiencing natural and human-made disasters and the urgent need to reconstruct their economies and human settlements;

[(dd) Implementing the commitments of the international community to the special needs and vulnerabilities of human settlements in the small island developing States, in particular by providing effective means, including adequate, predictable, new and additional resources for human settlements programmes, in accordance with the Declaration of Barbados and on the basis of relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

[(ee) Providing international support and assistance to the land-locked developing countries and their neighbour transit developing countries in their efforts to implement the outcome of Habitat II, taking into account the challenges and problems characteristic to those countries;

[(ff) Agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes;

[(gg) Providing soft loans and grants to enable all nations to address specifically the needs of vulnerable groups.]

(The following paragraph is to be incorporated into section F in square brackets)

[Set up an advisory centre to identify appropriate financial institutions such as the African Development Bank and World Bank to avail themselves to assist member States to secure financial assistance/funding for the implementation of shelter and human settlements programmes.]

4. Technology transfer and information exchange

151. [The use and transfer of environmentally sound technologies that have a profound impact on consumption and production patterns are prerequisites for sustainable human settlements development. Advanced and appropriate technologies and the knowledge-based systems that support their application offer new opportunities for more efficient use of human, financial and material resources, more sustainable industrial practices and new sources of employment. International agencies, including the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), have an essential role in disseminating and facilitating access to information on available technologies and options for their transfer. It is understood that the transfer of technology includes assurances of adequate

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protection of intellectual property and mutually agreed allocation of commercial benefits].

152. The international community, in promoting and facilitating the transfer of technology and expertise in support of the implementation of national plans of action, should:

(a) Establish and reinforce, as appropriate, global networks among all stakeholders to facilitate exchange of information on environmentally sound technologies, particularly those related to shelter and human settlements;

(b) Ensure that the process of technology transfer is fair and avoids dumping of environmentally unsound technologies on the recipients;

(c) [Facilitate] [Develop and intensify] technical cooperation with and among all regions, including South-South cooperation, in order to exchange experiences, particularly on best practices, foster the development of technology and technical skills and increase the efficiency of shelter and human settlements policies and management, with the backing of coordinated and complimentary support from multilateral and bilateral arrangements;

(c bis.) Ensure the use of appropriate technology and production of local building materials;

(d) Place special emphasis on the funding and the promotion and dissemination of applied research, an innovation in all areas that could contribute to enhancing the capabilities of developing countries, particularly those in Africa and the least developed countries, to provide shelter, urban services, infrastructure, and amenities to their communities;

(d bis.) Support the development of international, subregional and regional networks of institutions involved in research, production, dissemination, and commercialization of locally produced building materials;

[(e) [Enhance the identification and dissemination of those new and promising technologies related to human settlements which generate employment and lower cost of infrastructure, make basic services more affordable, and minimize detrimental environment impacts, and also identify specific roles for existing United Nations organizations, [especially the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)] which would promote these goals].]

5. Technical cooperation

[153. [To face the challenges of the rapidly urbanizing world, there is need to ensure that international and regional networks facilitate more effectively the exchange and transfer of knowledge and experience on institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks, and to disseminate best practices on sustainable human settlements in rural and urban areas. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should [play a central role and] act as a catalyst in mobilization of technical cooperation. Opportunities for improved dissemination

and exchange of ideas on technical cooperation at national and international levels could be explored].]

154. More specifically, the international community should:

(a) Establish [, within existing resources,] cost-effective global information networks on human settlements in the form of permanent and "electronic conferences" that will contain updated information global plan of action best practices, as well as progress reports on implementation of national plans of action;

(b) Through global human settlements information networks, assist Governments at all levels, all major groups of actors and international development agencies in assessing information and policies, strategies, programmes and projects on sustainable human settlements development and the provision of shelter;

(c) [Under the leadership of the Commission on Human Settlements, and supported by the regional commissions and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), develop awareness-building and information activities to ensure that human settlements development issues in general, and concerted policy and programme responses to urbanization in particular, are brought into the mainstream of the development objectives of the international community and national Governments];

(d) With a view to supporting and facilitating national and local efforts in human settlements management, develop and strengthen capacity-building programmes and promote exchange of experiences and policy responses to urbanization and integrated regional development within the framework of national development strategies;

(e) Through the secretariat of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), supported by information gathered by regional commissions, develop capacity-building strategies in order to enhance the capabilities of national and local authorities to identify and analyse critical human settlements issues, to formulate and effectively implement policies and programmes in response to them, and to manage efficiently the process of settlements development at the local levels;

(e bis.) Through appropriate institutions, continue to promote capacity-building of developing countries with effective utilization of national experts;

(f) Continue to support technical cooperation programmes aimed at mitigating the effects of natural and human-made-disasters and reconstruction activities in affected countries;

(g) Enable the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) [, within existing resources,] to provide technical, legal and institutional assistance to Governments at all appropriate levels, upon request, in

particular, in closer cooperation with the capacity-building efforts of the United Nations Development Programme.

6. Institutional cooperation

155. The task of pursuing the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, in the face of increasing global economic interaction, necessitates international cooperation of public and private institutions operating in the areas of human settlement development, whereby resources, information and capacities are pooled for a more effective response to human settlements problems.

156. [The Habitat Agenda adds new elements to the agenda for national actions and international cooperation, reaffirming and building on the results of the recent major United Nations conferences. Governments confirm the need for a coordinated follow-up to the major world conferences, including Habitat II. The very nature of urban challenges requires an integrated approach to sustainable development and thus increased cooperation and coherence. Existing intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations system should be used to promote communication and coordination between Governments and international bodies - including those of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods system, as well as other relevant stakeholders - and to strengthen a common perception of human settlements priorities.]

156 bis. [Implementation of the Habitat Agenda should take place within a coordinated framework that ensures that all the United Nations conferences receive comprehensive follow-up and that the agreed programmes of action are fully implemented, monitored and reviewed, together with the results of other recent United Nations conferences where they are related to human settlements. Those conferences include, in particular, the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the World Summit for Social Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women. This will require better coordination and cooperation between multilateral and bilateral partners and joint programming, leading to increased and more effective cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and other entities within and outside the United Nations system].

157. The United Nations system of agencies, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the regional and subregional development banks and funds and bilateral support agencies [where appropriate] should:

(a) Establish and strengthen, where appropriate, cooperative mechanisms to integrate sustainable human settlements development commitments and actions into their policies, programmes and operations, particularly those commitments and actions from the Habitat Agenda, taking into account the outcome of the relevant sections of other recent United Nations Conferences;

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(b) Establish and strengthen partnerships with international associations of local authorities, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations and with all other stakeholders to achieve the goals of the Conference;

(c) Develop activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of local authorities;

(d) Intensify their cooperation with non-governmental organizations, voluntary groups and community associations, and private and cooperative sectors in sustainable human settlements development;

(e) Support public-private partnerships in shelter delivery, service provision and other development activities for sustainable human settlements;

(f) Encourage the involvement of all actors at the local level in reaching agreements on local measures, programmes and actions necessary to implement Habitat Agenda, the Global Plan of Action and national plans of action, including through "Local Agenda 21" processes, as mandated by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.



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OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE: DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES
AND COMMITMENTS AND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

F. Implementation and follow-up of the Global Plan of Action
(paras. 158-162)

(Section IV (Global Plan of Action: Strategies for
Implementation) of the draft Habitat agenda)

Text submitted by Working Group II on the basis of
negotiations held on document A/CONF.165/PC.3/4



F. Implementation and follow-up of the Global Plan of Action

1. Introduction

[158. The long-term impact of the commitments made by Governments and the international community at Habitat II will depend on the implementation of actions agreed upon at all levels, including the local, national and international levels. Also, national plans of action and/or other relevant national programmes and actions on sustainable human settlements development and shelter provision will need to be developed or strengthened, where appropriate, and their implementation will need to be monitored and evaluated by Governments and their partners in sustainable development at the national level. Similarly progress in implementing the Global Plan of Action needs to be assessed with a view to encouraging and enabling all stakeholders to improve their performance and strengthen international cooperation.

2. Implementation at the national level

[158 bis. Governments have the primary responsibility of implementing the Global Plan of Action. Governments as central partners will create and strengthen effective partnerships with families, communities, local authorities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, women, youth, elderly, vulnerable groups, and indigenous people in each country. National mechanisms should be installed or improved, as appropriate, to coordinate actions at all relevant government levels that have an impact on human settlements and to assess this impact prior to governmental actions. Local authorities should be supported in their approach to implement this Global Plan of Action inasmuch as local action is required. All appropriate participatory mechanisms, including Local Agenda 21's, should be developed and employed.

3. Implementation at the international level

[159. The effective implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) should take into account the integration of sustainable human settlements development with broader environmental, social and economic considerations. The main actors at the global level for the implementation and follow-up of the Habitat Agenda will continue to be States Members of the United Nations, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and all other specialized agencies of programmes in the United Nations system engaged in activities pertaining to the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world.

4. Tracking progress on the Global Plan of Action

[160. Members of the United Nations shall exert concerted efforts to achieve the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through bilateral, subregional, regional, and international mechanisms for cooperation, as well as through the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions.

[161. The General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental body, is the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up of Habitat II. At the special session of the General Assembly to be convened for 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, due attention should be given to the issue of human settlements in the context of sustainable development. Also, the Assembly should include the follow-up to the Conference in its agenda as an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)". At its fifty-first session, it should review the outcome of the Conference as well as the steps required to implement the Habitat Agenda.

[162. The General Assembly should hold a special session in the year 2006 for an overall mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II and should consider further actions and initiatives.

[163. The Economic and Social Council, in accordance with its role under the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Council, would oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and make recommendations in this regard. The Council should be invited to review at its substantive session in 1997 the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. As the coordinating body, the Council should be invited to review in 1997 the role and functioning of the Commission on Human Settlements, taking into account the need for synergy and effective coordination with other related commissions and conference follow-up, and with a view to ensure a clear division of labour and coordination of multi-year programmes of work. In addition, it should consider dedicating one high-level segment of its substantive session before the year 2001 to human settlements and to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action with the active involvement and participation, *inter alia*, of the specialized agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

[164. The Council may convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on the critical issues pertaining to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development as well as on policies for addressing them through international cooperation.

[165. The Council, in the context of its role under the Charter of the United Nations *vis-à-vis* the General Assembly and in accordance with the relevant Assembly resolutions, would facilitate system-wide coordination in the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II and make recommendations in this regard. It should look at ways to strengthen, consistent with the mandates of the Charter of the United Nations and the role and authority, structures, resources and processes of the Council itself, for bringing economic and social development agencies into a closer working relationship with it so that it can review progress made towards implementing the outcome of Habitat II.

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[166. The General Assembly and the Council should promote subregional and regional cooperation in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. In this regard, the regional commissions, in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, should convene meetings at the highest political level to review progress made towards implementing the outcome of Habitat II, to exchange views on their respective experiences, particularly in the best practices, and to adopt appropriate measures. The regional commissions should report to the Council on the outcome of such meetings.

[167. As a standing committee assisting the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Settlements should have an important role in monitoring, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

[168. The mandate of the Commission will be strengthened and expanded to incorporate and implement the Habitat Agenda. Similarly the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will be strengthened and revitalized in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with a view to enabling it to implement effectively the expanded mandate contained in the Habitat Agenda under the overall policy direction of the Commission on Human Settlements. The Centre should be evolved into a highly competent technical secretariat capable of implementing the Habitat Agenda. For the purpose, the Centre will be restructured and strengthened to deal effectively with the Habitat Agenda.

[169. The Commission on Human Settlements, under the Economic and Social Council, will have the following main objectives:

[(a) To promote integrated and cohesive policies aimed at achieving the goals of the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in all countries in accordance with the Habitat Agenda;

[(b) To track the progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and activities related to shelter provision and sustainable human settlements development, including the relevant commitments contained in Agenda 21;

[(c) To assist countries and regions in increasing and improving their own efforts to solve shelter and human settlements problems;

[(d) To receive and analyse relevant inputs from Governments, local authorities and relevant non-governmental organizations in the context of the overall implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

[(e) To promote greater international cooperation in order to increase the availability of resources to developing countries, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries;

[(f) To provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council on the basis of an analysis and synthesis of the information received and to inform the Commission on Sustainable Development;

[(g) To facilitate cooperation and partnerships in this domain among all countries and regions.

[170. The Commission on Human Settlements will have the following main functions and responsibilities:

[(a) To develop and promote policy objectives, priorities and guidelines regarding existing and planned programmes of work in the fields of adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements, as contained in the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and endorsed by the General Assembly;

[(b) To lead the United Nations system and to cooperate with other international organizations in the field of adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements and to propose, when appropriate, ways and means by which the overall policy objectives and goals in these fields within the United Nations system might be best achieved;

[(c) To ensure that adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development are implemented in harmony with the recommendations adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 7 of Agenda 21, and the declarations and plans of action relating to shelter and human settlements adopted by the World Summit on Children, the World Conference on Human Rights, the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit on Social Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women;

[(d) To promote the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Habitat Agenda that pertain to national actions recommended by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

[(e) To study in the context of the Habitat Agenda new issues and problems with a view to evolving solutions for adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements, particularly those of a regional or international character;

[(f) To continue to give overall policy guidance and carry out supervision of the operations of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

[(g) To review and approve periodically the utilization of funds at its disposal for carrying out shelter and human settlements development activities at the global, regional and subregional levels;

[(h) To monitor and evaluate the progress made towards achieving the goals of the Habitat Agenda and recommend appropriate measures at the mid-term review to be undertaken by the year 2006 alternative actions as deemed necessary to enhance the dynamic nature of the Agenda;

[(i) To evaluate, at the mid-term review, through an international meeting or conference, the effective contribution of the private sector in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

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[171. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), located in Nairobi, shall continue to service the Commission on Human Settlements and serve as the focal point for actions and coordination of activities related to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements action within the United Nations system. The Centre shall be headed by an Executive Director, at a level of the Under-Secretary-General, who shall report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Centre shall be entrusted, inter alia, with the following responsibilities:

[(a) To ensure the harmonization of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development programmes planned and carried out by the United Nations system;

[(b) To assist the Commission on Human Settlements in formulating recommendations for coordinating adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements development activities in the United Nations system, to keep them under review and to assess their effectiveness;

[(c) To execute adequate shelter and human settlements development programmes and projects;

[(d) To serve as the focal point for a global exchange of information about adequate shelter for all and human settlements development;

[(e) To provide substantive support to the Commission on Human Settlements;

[(f) To deal with interregional issues relating to adequate shelter for all and human settlements development;

[(g) To supplement the resources of the regions in formulating and implementing adequate shelter for all and human settlements development programmes and projects when so required;

[(h) To promote and consolidate collaboration with all partners, including private sector and non-governmental organizations, in the Habitat Agenda for adequate shelter and human settlements development;

[(i) To maintain and update a global directory of consultants and advisers to supplement the skills available within the United Nations system and, where necessary, to assist in the recruitment of experts at the global level, including those belonging to developing countries;

[(j) To initiate public information activities on adequate shelter for all and human settlements development in cooperation with the Office of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat;

[(k) To promote increased use of audio-visual and information technology relating to adequate shelter and human settlements development;

[(l) To carry out any other mandate, responsibilities and functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

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[172. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the secretariats of the regional commissions, as well as the principal financial and technical institutions and all other partners at the regional and global levels, should consolidate and expand cooperation and coordination in the fields of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development.

[173. Within their mandates, other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development and Commission on Social Development, should give due regard to human settlements issues, as set out in the Global Plan of Action.

[174. To promote implementation of the Global Plan of Action at the regional and subregional levels, the regional commissions, in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, could convene, on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to review progress made towards implementing the outcomes, exchange views on respective experiences and adopt the appropriate measures. The regional commissions should report to the Economic and Social Council through the appropriate mechanisms on the outcome of such meetings.

[175. The Secretary-General is invited to ensure effective coordination of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and adequate consideration of human settlements needs in all activities of the United Nations. The Administrative Committee on Coordination should review its procedures at the inter-agency level to ensure system-wide coordination and full participation of its entities in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. These entities should examine their programmes to determine how they can best contribute to the coordinated implementation of the Global Plan of Action. The Committee should be invited to establish a task force on the Habitat Agenda. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should be added to the membership of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and to the task force on the Habitat Agenda.

[176. The Secretary-General is invited to continue to ensure effective functioning of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). In conjunction with the review of the mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements, the functions of the Centre should be assessed by the Economic and Social Council.

[177. The important role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in monitoring those aspects of the Statement of Principals and Commitment on Global Plan of Action that relate to compliance by States parties with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should be emphasized.

[178. To strengthen their support for actions at the national level and to enhance their contributions to an integrated and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system should identify the specific actions they will undertake to meet the priorities identified in the Global Plan of Action.

[179.. In order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations organizations in providing support to the efforts for the provision of adequate

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shelter for all and sustainable human settlement development at the national level, and to enhance their capacity to achieve the objectives of Habitat II, there is a need to renew, reform and revitalize the various parts of the United Nations system, in particular its operational activities. All specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system are invited to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to Habitat II. The governing bodies of the following organizations should review their policies, programmes, budgets and activities in this regard:

[(a) The United Nations Development Programme should enhance its efforts to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through its network of field offices;

[(b) The International Labour Organization should coordinate and support concrete actions at the policy and programme levels for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda with regard to the expansion and protection of employment and work;

[(c) The United Nations Children's Fund should consider integrating its Urban Basic Service Programmes, the Mayors Defenders of Children Initiative, and the Decentralization of the UNICEF National Plans of Action with the Habitat Agenda through broad partnerships for sustainable community development and community management;

[(d) The United Nations Conference on the Trade and Development should contribute to the analysis and monitoring of major trends of urbanization and impact of urban and rural policies in connection with changes in the global economic environment;

[(e) The United Nations Environment Programme should develop and promote policies to enhance the environment and to integrate environmental considerations into human settlements development and adequate shelter for all and catalyze action to achieve these goals at the international, regional, subregional, and national levels;

[(f) The United Nations Population Fund, in coordination and cooperation with other United Nations entities, should pursue activities related to basic social services for all;

[(g) The United Nations Industrial Development Organization in implementing the Habitat Agenda should address areas that require the competitiveness of export-oriented enterprises and competitive local and national enterprise growth;

[(h) The World Health Organization should be guided in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda by the global importance of health issues, the linkage of those issues to sustainable human settlements and adequate shelter, the close relationship between public health and basic urban and rural services, and the need to place human beings at the centre of development.

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[180. International financial institutions should contribute to the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. To this end, the relevant institutions are urged to take the following measures:

[(a) The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the regional and subregional development banks and funds, and all other international finance organizations should further integrate adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlement development goals in their policies, programmes and operations, including by such means as giving higher priority to these goals, where applicable, in their lending programmes;

[(b) The Bretton Woods institutions and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should work together with concerned countries, particularly developing countries, to improve policy dialogues and develop new initiatives to ensure that structural adjustment programmes promote sustained economic growth, with particular attention being given to the necessity to provide adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlement development to people living in poverty and other vulnerable groups;

[(c) The United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations specialized agencies, should expand and improve their cooperation in the field of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlement development to ensure that the efforts are complementary and, where possible, should combine resources in joint initiatives for adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlement development build around the objectives of Habitat II;

[(d) The World Trade Organization should consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system.

5. Indicators, best practices and performance evaluation

[181. It is essential to evaluate the impact of policies, strategies and actions on the provision of adequate shelter and the achievement of sustainable human settlements development. The results of these evaluations will be considered by the relevant United Nations bodies, including the Commission on Human Settlements. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), together with other relevant organizations, will establish an appropriate process for analysing and monitoring major trends of urbanization and the impact of urban policies. In particular, information on the impact of urbanization on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including children, should be collected.

[182. All partners of the Habitat Agenda, including local authorities, the private sector and communities, will regularly monitor and evaluate their own performances in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through comparable human settlements and shelter indicators and documented best practices, the guidelines for which will be provided by the Centre (Habitat). The data collection and analysis capabilities of all these partners will be strengthened and assisted at national, subregional and global levels.

[183. As part of their commitment to strengthening their existing shelter- and settlements-related data collection and analysis capabilities, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should continue to identify and disseminate best practices, and should develop and apply shelter and human settlements development indicators. This and other relevant information, as appropriate, will be used for assessing the national implementation of the global plan of action. Such information could be considered within the framework of an appropriate consolidated reporting system of the United Nations, taking into account the different reporting procedures in the economic, social and environmental fields.

[184. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will be designated as the Global Habitat Observatory to promote, monitor and evaluate the trends and progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through locally, nationally and regionally supported indicators and best practices programmes. It should continue to produce and publish the Global State of Human Settlements Report and other periodical monitoring and evaluation publications to track the progress on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.]
